

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Health and Community Design

Dr. Richard Jackson, California's Public Health Officer, believes that the relationship between the built environment and public health has become self-evident: We don't walk because our communities are designed for cars. We live in neighborhoods that encourage privacy and isolation. We don't feel safe because we don't know our neighbors.



Planning Director Carl Cahill

An internationally recognized leader in environmental health, Dr. Jackson believes that the connections we make with each other and the environment are paramount to attaining mental and physical health. "The diseases of the 21st century will be chronic, such as obesity, heart disease, depression, and osteoporosis," says Dr. Jackson. "The design of communities needs to encourage walking, bicycling, and running. Residents need to be less dependent on a lifestyle that increases pollution. Neighbors need to build relationships to promote safe and secure environments." Dr. Jackson comes from an extensive background in pediatrics. Most recently, he served as the director of the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1994 to 2003; and as an adjunct professor in the departments of environmental and occupational health at George Washington University and at Emory University, and epidemiology and public health at the University of California, San Francisco. He became the State Health Officer in April 2004. Dr. Jackson's comments are timely as the Town nears the finish line for completing an update of the Town's 1981 Master Path Plan. The Master Path Plan and accompanying Pathway Element represent the Town's blue print for promoting physical activity on a system of safe walkways and off-road trails that connect neighborhoods, schools and open spaces. Rather than becoming obsolete, the Town's Pathway System, which began to be developed as early as 1956, is more relevant than ever as public health officials and other communities realize that community designs, which inhibit pedestrian and bicycle movement, are contributing to certain public health problems. Dr. Jackson's article entitled "Promoting Healthy Environments" is reprinted with permission from the Winter 2005 edition of the California Healthy Cities and Communities (CHCC) Newsletter "Connections." More information on this subject is available at the National Center for Bicycling and Walking website at <http://www.bikewalk.org/> and the Center for Civic Partnerships California Healthy Cities and Communities website at <http://www.civicpartnerships.org>

Updated Geo-Hazards Map

The Town Geologist has completed an updated version of the Geotechnical and Seismic Hazard Zones Map. The Map is available at Town Hall. Copies may be obtained by contacting John Chau in the Town Engineering Department at (650) 941-7222.

—Carl Cahill, Planning Director

BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL NEWS

Bullis Charter School Site in Los Altos Hills

Bullis Charter School is asking for the support of all residents of Los Altos Hills to help bring a public elementary school back to our town. BCS has requested the use of the former Bullis-Purissima Elementary School site from the Los Altos School District for Fall '05. Our town has now gone for two years without a public school. The LASD Board has said they will not allow Bullis Charter School to use the Bullis site because it is not



comparable to other school sites in the district. They have also said that children attending Bullis Charter School will be "permanent nomads." Meanwhile, LASD continues to use the site for less than 10 children in commercial day-care and district pre-school, in violation of Los Altos Hills zoning laws.

At the February 3 Los Altos Hills City Council meeting, the BCS Site Committee asked the council to begin taking the necessary actions to allow the school to use the riding ring and one baseball field on Purissima Road as a temporary school site for Fall '05. BCS would withdraw this request if the LASD decides to allow the school to use the Bullis site by April 1 (per Proposition 39). The BCS Site Committee evaluated over 15 potential school sites in the Los Altos Hills area before concluding that the Purissima Road site was the only near-term possibility. It was necessary to move forward now with plans for this alternative school site to ensure that it could be a viable option for Fall '05.

Please join us in thanking our City Council for taking a courageous stand to support public education in our town. You can also help by attending the LASD Board's public meetings in March to voice your support for allowing Bullis Charter School to use the Bullis site, and avoid having to relocate the riding ring and one ball field.

Open Enrollment Success

Bullis Charter School had an extremely enthusiastic response to Open Enrollment with over 200 new applicants for Fall '05, exceeding the space available. The school currently has 170 students and expects to enroll 30-50 new students for Fall '05. Selection will be done by lottery for classes that are over-subscribed, with priority for LASD children.

Bullis Pitches In for Tsunami Relief

Students are running a weekly bake sale from February through June to support Tsunami relief efforts on the Island of Nias. Classes will rotate hosting responsibilities. Each week the hosting class presents at the school assembly about the importance of their particular effort. Proceeds will be sent to SurfAid International.

—Lee Garverick,
Bullis Boosters Club, Bullis Charter School